SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1876. [CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 25th November, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Samaya Vinod* of the 15th November says that various reasons have been adduced by journalists to prove the inadvisability of holding the imperial assemblage. Some say that the title of Shahin Shah (Empress) assumed by Her Majesty will not be significant and becoming, until the feudatory rájas and nawábs are presented with the title of Badshah or king. Some are afraid that the enormous expenditure involved in celebrating the Delhi pageant may necessitate the imposition of an income-tax. Some feel for the native chiefs who will be put to vast expenses. Fears are also entertained of the outbreak of an epidemic disease in so vast an assemblage of private persons and troops. But the editor does not concur in these views. The title of Empress is very proper for the Queen, seeing that her supremacy is acknowledged by all the native chiefs of India. A large expenditure of money on such occasions is inevitable. Even if it be followed by an income-tax, the natives can have but little reason to grumble,

seeing that the Government has spent vast sums of money for their benefit and comfort on railways, telegraphs, schools, and dispensaries, and so on. The expenses incurred by feudatory chiefs in attending the imperial assemblage will be more than counterbalanced by the benefits likely to arise from it. Their mutual love and friendship will surely be increased by personal interviews; and the knowledge of the English mode of administration and government, which must be acquired during their stay at Delhi, will not fail to produce beneficial results. In conclusion, the editor points out the expediency of using fireworks of native manufacture, and of utilising native artists to paint pictures of the durbar scene. This encouragement will give a great stimulus to native industry and art.

The *Ashraf-ul-Akhbár* of the 21st November coincides in the views expressed by the *Panjabi Akhbár* dated 11th November (*vide* "Selections" for the week ending the 18th November, 1876, page 656 *et. seq*), in reference to the advisability of removing the seat of the Supreme Government from Calcutta to Delhi, and adds that a very great political advantage will be secured by the adoption of this proposal. For the last three thousand years Delhi has been the capital of India, and is held in veneration by the people of India as such. The Hindú kings ruled there till the time of Rája Pithora. It continued to be the seat of the Government under the Mussalman dynasties from the time of Shahab-ud-din Muhammad of Ghor to the end of the Timúr dynasty. Any king who sat on the throne of Delhi, even though his dominions were confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the city, was acknowledged as the king of Hindustán; while the most extended sovereignty could win no such acknowledgment while the seat of empire was held by another. Now, as the title of Empress assumed by Her Majesty has reference to India, her representative, the Viceroy, should follow the old custom of living at Delhi, that the chiefs may cherish the same friendship and love towards the Government as they did towards the Moghal emperors.

The *Nasim-ul-Akhbar* of the 21st November rejoices at the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Majesty, and makes certain suggestions for the favourable consideration of the Government. The Viceroy, on the expiration of his limited tenure of office in India, sinks to the level of an ordinary duke. This policy of the Government in changing the Viceroy at fixed intervals of time, justifiable as it may be from an administrative point of view, is derogatory to the greatness of the state. Dissatisfaction and misunderstanding are sure to arise at the Delhi durbar in reference to the question of precedence. The Maharaja of Jodhpur objected to the seat allotted him at the durbar held by Lord Mayo. The same was the case with the Rána of Udaypur at the the Bombay durbar. If the Government are anxious to follow the emperors of Delhi, regard should also be paid to the claims of certain chiefs for seniority, based on their historical greatness and antiquity. The agencies should be withdrawn from those states where the administration is satisfactory. This indulgence will encourage the chiefs to renewed exertion in improving their governments. Rewards and khilats should be granted to distinguished artists and scientific men. There are certain chiefs and scions of old noble families, remarkable for their learning and administrative ability. They should be exalted in rank and dignity; and suitable titles should be conferred upon them. (A few of these gentlemen are enumerated.) A commission of able natives should be appointed to amend those laws and regulations which are complained of by the people. Natives should be promoted to high offices of trust and responsibility. Schools should be started to give the natives military training, that they may be of real service to the Government in the time of difficulty and danger. (Several other things of minor importance are also noticed.)

TURKEY AND THE MUSSALMANS OF INDIA.

The *Anand Lahri* of the 17th November, in its columns of Summary of News, states that on the 5th idem the Mussal-

[illegible] a public meeting where thousands were present. It was resolved that a memorial should be submitted to Her Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India imploring her to afford aid to Turkey in her present distress. A subscription list was also opened to collect subscriptions for the relief of the wounded soldiers of the Porte. Rs. 5,000 were subscribed on the spot.

The Kaiser-i-Hind of the 18th November says that even the natives, so notorious for their habitual indolence and sloth, have evinced a very lively interest in the affairs of Turkey from the very beginning. It is a matter of considerable anxiety with them whether the English Government will continue to keep up its friendly relations with Turkey as of old, or leave her to shift for herself in this emergency. It is the ardent wish of the Indian Mussalmans that the British Government should render most liberal and effectual aid to the Porte on this occasion. To make their views and feelings known to the Government, they have transmitted memorials from various quarters of the country to Her Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India, through the local Governments and the Government of India. Any aid rendered by the English Government to the Ottoman empire will place not only the present generation of the Mussalmans but also their posterity under the greatest obligations. The editor, as a Mussalman, shares the feelings of his brethren of the faith, but in his capacity of an editor of a public paper is bound to subordinate the desires and feelings of a particular sect of the community to the more important interests of the general public. (Here follows an account of the financial position, territorial extent, and military strength of each of the great European powers.) To realise the great importance of the Eastern question, it is necessary to mention here that a journey can be performed between England and India by the Suez Canal in a fortnight, while the old route by the west of Africa takes no less than two or three months. It is consequently not a matter of indifference to England and India whether the Turks or the

Government as they did towards the Moghal emperors.

Russians have the command of the Mediterranean Sea, especially as the boundaries of Russian conquests in Central Asia lie within two hundred and seventy miles of Herat. The principle of maintaining the balance of power is the guiding policy of European politics. The wisdom that underlies this policy cannot be too highly praised. Any unusual accession of power in one kingdom is justly regarded as prejudicial to the independence of other kingdoms, and dangerous to the peace of Europe. The necessity of curbing the appalling aspirations of Russia, who aims at the subjugation of the whole world, is incontrovertible. Bearing the above circumstances in mind, it is at once evident that England will not only earn to herself the gratitude of the Porte, but serve her own interests by preserving the territorial integrity and independence of the Ottoman empire. Through the false and exaggerated reports sedulously spread by the Russians about the dealings of the Turks with their Christian subjects, Europe has been led astray from the path of justice to cry for vengeance upon the innocent Turks. The communications made by Christians living in Turkey to the English newspapers clearly show up the mean tricks and expedients of the Russians. It was the Russians themselves who long ago started secret committees in the provinces of Turkey, whose business was to induce the Christians to throw off the allegiance of the Porte. When war began between the Turks and their Christian subjects, some respectable Russians were base enough to disinter the corpses of the Christian soldiers previously killed in battle and drag them at night into the field of battle to increase the number of Christian slain. This dishonest and horrible practice was evidently adopted to give an exaggerated idea of the severity and violence of the Turks. These few facts, gleaned from English newspapers, will go a great way to show the innocence of the Turks and the dubious and treacherous conduct of the Russians. If the ruler of a state finds it necessary for the maintenance of peace and order to chastise his mutinous subjects, any interference on the part of

neighbouring powers in the internal affairs of that state usually arise from interested motives. The evil designs of Russia for self-aggrandisement are well known to other European powers. Only the other day she advised Austria to seize the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and expressed her intention of occupying Bulgaria herself. But Austria, seeing that these provinces were mostly inhabited by the tribe that already formed the majority of her subject population, wisely declined the offer. All things considered, England decided not break off her alliance with the Porte, but, firmly exposing its cause, should take up arms against Russia. Russia should be made to pay very dearly for her constant intriguing, and a lasting impression should be made upon her by a display of English power in the field, that she may relinquish her evil habits for a long time to come, nor dare advance foot in Asia towards India.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 21st November reports that the wife of Colonel Young, the Commissioner of Lahore, has subscribed Rs. 50 for the aid of the Servians. It may reasonably be hoped that the action of the Mussalmans of the Punjab, prompted by similar feelings, in collecting subscriptions for the Turks and submitting memorials to the Empress of India, exhorting her to assist the Porte, will meet with the approval of the Commissioner. The loyal subjects of Her Majesty are always anxious to follow the example of their rulers. The Servians are mutineers, and the English Government is no ally of theirs, but still some Englishmen have come forward to their support with money. While, on the other hand, the Turks are the innocent party, and on friendly terms with the British Government, it behoves the Mussalmans of India to do what they can for the distressed brethren of their faith.

The same paper notices that a general meeting of the Mussalman community of Amritsar was held on the 17th of November, to raise subscriptions for the relief of the wounded soldiers, and the widows and orphans of those killed in the

war in Turkey. The whole Mussalman population of Amritsar, including women, are eager to alleviate the sufferings of their afflicted brethren with money. If the Mussalmans and Hindus of India learn to sympathize with their suffering fellow-subjects, as the Mussalmans of Amritsar do with the Turks, the miseries of India will soon be over, and prosperity will dawn upon her.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Khair Khwah-i-Alam* of the 17th November, in its correspondence columns, complains of the great irregularity in paying the salaries of the state servants in Jodhpur. Arrears of a year and more are common. The Political Agent should make some arrangements for a more regular payment.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustán* of the 18th November regards the proceedings of the council of regency at Patiala as very objectionable and prejudicial to the interests of the state. The council take a special delight in annulling the orders of the late Máhárájá without any reason or necessity, which they are by no means empowered to do. Sirdar Gurmukh Singh was at first the Assistant Diwan. He was afterwards found guilty of plotting against the life of the late Mahárajá, and was, therefore, discharged from the service, and all his estates were confiscated. This very man has been appointed Názim of the Amargarh district. The people have already commenced to complain bitterly of his inexperience. His appointment has been secured by Namdar Khan of Basi, a member of the council, for promoting the private interests of the latter. After the Sirdar had joined his appointment at Basi, Namdar Khan also went to that place, and introduced one Pirbhu, the Patwari of Basi, a very cunning man and an intimate friend of his, with whom he left instructions, and returned to Patiala. The Patwari, who dare not sit ever on the floor in the presence of the Názim, sits close beside Sirdar Gurmukh Singh in his court, and exercises a great influence on him in the decision of cases. All

Námdár Khán's old opponents and others with grievances are now in a very helpless and miserable position. These men were at first much better off than Námdár Khán who was only a servant. But now, to their misfortune, he fills the office of regent and has converted the high office of Názim of Amargarh on one who is interested to carry out his wishes and serve his private ends. Surely Námdár Khán may be said to have rightly understood his duties as a member of the council. It was expressly said by Mr. Lepel Griffin, at the time of announcing the determination of the Government with respect to the constitution of the council of regency, that the council were not appointed to make money or pay off their old grudges. In spite of this admonition, Námdár Khán is unworthily satisfying his private desires and feelings. The Názim oppresses the people at Basi; and when they go to appeal to the council at Patiala, Namdár Khán dismisses their appeals. The council degrades and dismisses good officers of the state causelessly, and appoints others in their places for the furtherance of its own interests.

The *Punjabi Akhbár* of the 18th November, in its correspondence columns, complains of the maladministration of the Karauli State. The rájá spends all his time in sport and shooting. The entire administration of the state is left in the hands of two persons, Thakur Brikhbhán Singh and Bainday Rám Narain. The former shirks the work or performs it with indifference; the latter is absolutely illiterate, and confusion and disorder naturally characterize all he does. The pay of the public servants and soldiers is fearfully in arrears. The Mahárájá has a wish to join the imperial assemblage at Delhi; but the expense of the journey is a great obstacle. The only way to get over this difficulty will be the imposition of a new tax. The darbars that have become so frequent in these days threaten the whole of feudatory India with hopeless ruin.

The dead body of [illegible] who lately found

put. The murder seems to have been committed by robbers. The officers of the state, instead of endeavouring to trace the murderers, try to hush up the matter, lest the Agent at Bharatpur should come to know of it.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

A correspondent of the *Koh-i-Nur* of the 18th November, writing from Vazírabád, remonstrates against the unjust exclusion of Kashmíris from service in the Police Department in Gujrat (Panjab). The Kashmíri people, as a nation, are regarded as cowards by the District Superintendent of Police, and therefore unfit for police service. He appears to have arrived at this sweeping conclusion from a very partial examination of facts. He may have come across a few timid Kashmíris, but this by no means justifies him in condemning the whole nation as cowards.

The *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 20th November, in its columns of Summary of News, says that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Sir Bartle Frere have incurred the extreme displeasure of Anglo-Indians for bringing to the notice of Englishmen the oppressions practised by their brethren in India upon the natives.

The same paper reports that the Bishops of Bombay and Madras have started charity-houses to afford relief to the starving people of the famine-stricken districts on condition of their adopting the Christian faith. The editor strongly condemns this expedient of the bishops to take advantage of the calamity for the advancement of their religion.

The *Almora Akhbár* of the 15th November, referring to the strict laws of France concerning the sale of genuine articles of food, says that there is very great laxity in India in enforcing the laws prohibiting the sale of adulterated and impure provisions.

The *Samaya Vinod* of the 15th November remarks that the year 1877 will form a memorable epoch in the history of India, by reason of the grand durbar that will be held in

honour of the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Majesty; and that the year 1876 has also earned notoriety for itself, as it has seen a severe blow struck at the root of the Education Department, from which it has no chance of recovering. It is a matter of deep regret that the Government, after having done so much for the education of the people, is going to undo the good work, and neglect one of its principal duties. It is said that the Government will stop the grant-in-aid at present given to the Almora Mission School. This will surely be a very unwise act on the part of the Government, because there is no Government school at Almora to which children can resort for education in the absence of the mission school. It behoves the people of Almora not to sit quiet at this moment, but to memorialize the Government, praying for the continuance of the grant-in-aid to the school.

The *Shola-i-Tór* of the 21st November says that even native bankers and European gentlemen, to say nothing of the common people, suffer great inconvenience and loss in cashing Government currency notes. A man cannot get a note of one circle cashed in another circle; and he is not sure of getting it cashed in a Government treasury even in the same circle. It is not seldom that he is told that there is no money in the treasury. The inevitable result of this frequent refusal on the part of the treasuries to exchange rupees for the currency notes is that men do not, as a rule, take the notes at par, but charge discount at arbitrary rates. Thus the paper currency, which is very profitable to the Government, and of great use to the people also, has unfortunately lost its good name to some extent, which causes much inconvenience and loss to the people. Steps should be taken by the Government to remove these evils, so that the currency notes may be as freely current as the metal coins.

EDUCATION.

The *Urdu Akhbar* of the 18th November, published in Mahratti at Akola, remonstrates against the large reductions

which the Director of Public Instruction of Berar is carrying out in the Education Department which is yet only in its infancy. It will go very hard with the public servants to cut down their pay very largely at this time of dearth. To reduce the pay of an office by 25 or 50 per cent. when a new man is appointed to it is sure to discourage others and hinder the progress of education, specially in a province where education is yet in a very backward condition.

One Káshínáth, a correspondent of the *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 13th November, in an article in English, headed "Is our Educational Department to be so cruelly dealt with?" After referring to the efficacy of education and learning in destroying the evils attendant on ignorance, and to the wise and generous educational policy of the Government for the diffusion of learning, proceeds to remark:—"But alas! the helm of the Government of these provinces is no more under the hand of Thomason or Muir, so zealous in the cause of education. It is most to be regretted that, on the order of the Government of India to reduce the expenditure of the empire, the present Government of the North-Western Provinces, unlike the other local Governments, has chiefly selected the Education Department for its victim. To our great misfortune the cruel sheers—nay, sharp knives—are being applied to its working limbs. It would not have been a cause of special regret to the natives had it been made to bear its part equally in the general reduction along with other departments. But alas! it is not the case. We humbly beg so clear-sighted and wise a politician as the Hon'ble Sir George Couper will not mark the period of his governorship with ignominy by anyhow materially injuring this noble structure, based on pure benevolence, and so industriously raised, strengthened, and beautified by some of his philanthropic predecessors. The system of general education has contributed more than anything else in firmly attaching the people of India to their present rulers." The writer is adverse to stopping grants-in-aid to missionary and private schools, because the grant-in-aid system encourages the people

RAILWAY.

A correspondent of the *Lawrence Gazette* of the 14th November makes certain suggestions for the improvement of railway management. The rate of railway fare should be diminished and made uniform throughout India. The rate of fare now charged by the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway may, at all events, be fixed as the standard. Overcrowding should be strictly avoided even on occasions of fairs, &c. As a precautionary measure carriages should be kept in reserve at every large station. Great delay takes place in examining the tickets, and consequently passengers have to remain long locked up in carriages, and suffer great inconvenience. Arrangements should be made to sell tickets at several places at railway stations. At present there being only one Booking Office at a station, a large number of passengers cannot obtain tickets in a limited period of time with ease; the consequence is that in the fearful rush that ensues passengers frequently lose their goods and property, to say nothing of the discomfort. At present there are no suitable facilities for purdanashin women to travel by rail. To supply this great desideratum each train should have a few carriages so constructed that alternate compartments in each carriage may be occupied by women and men—one compartment being occupied by women, the next one be set apart for their male companions. At each large railway station there are licensed sellers of food, who charge the passengers very high prices to indemnify themselves for what they have to pay the railway company. This farming practice should be at once put down. There should be an officer at each station to look after the railway police, so as to prevent them from exercising severity upon the passengers. Lastly, at certain stations the passengers, after obtaining tickets, are shut up in rooms for a long time before they

are allowed to take their seats in the carriages. This practice, too, is very objectionable.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 18th November says that one-fourth of the population of Firozpur is reported to have been already swept away by fever. This report may be exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the disease has been working great havoc in the city of late. A general panic has seized the people, and numbers of them have deserted their homes and migrated to other places, as Faridkot, Kasúr, and even Lahore. In these circumstances the cool remark of the Civil Surgeon, that there is no disease in the locality, is really astonishing. The prevalence of disease may be ascribed to the dampness of the place, caused by the canals generously opened under the auspices of Mr. Grey, the Deputy Commissioner. It is therefore very likely that the Civil Surgeon carefully ignores the prevalence of disease, simply because the cause of the disease, if made public, will indirectly throw the blame on Mr. Grey, the projector of the canal scheme. The editor impresses upon the Panjáb Government the urgent necessity of constituting a committee of Europeans and natives for the purpose of the support and treatment of the sick and destitute. A correspondent of the above paper, writing from Firozpur on the same subject, adds that the Civil Surgeon usually goes to the dispensary after twelve o'clock (noon). He of course finds very few patients in the dispensary at that late hour in the day, and even those few are drivn out as pretenders.

The same paper of the 21st November says that the inhabitants of Lahore have been exposed to great inconvenience and trouble since the removal of the dispensary to the new building called the Mayo Hospital, outside the city walls. There is now no charitable dispensary inside the city, and the Mayo Hospital being situated at some distance cannot be easily resorted to by the sick. Some arrangement should be made to provide the city popu lation with free medical aid nearer home.

...the municipal committee to sanitary arrangements inside the city is severely censured.

The *Madras Mail* of the 17th November, in an article headed "Moradabad," urges the expediency of a special legislation in regard to religious and charitable endowments. After the death of the person who allots a part of his estates to religious or charitable purposes, either the inheritors of his property seize the trust, or the trustees appropriate the proceeds of the income to their own private use. Thus, in either case, the benevolent and pious intentions of the donor are frustrated. One instance of each kind is quoted from Moradabad.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	DATE.	
	1876.	
Lauh-i-Mahfúz,	May	5th
" *Ditto*,	"	12th
" *Ditto*,	"	19th
" *Ditto*,	"	26th
Lámá-i-Núr,	November	5th
Tohfah-i-Kashmír,	"	11th
Kavi Vachan Sudhá,	"	13th
Marwar Gazette,	"	"
Akhbár-i-Nasím,	"	14th
Muruqa-i-Tehzib,	"	15th
Mufid-i-'Am,	"	"
Mohib-i-Hind,	"	"
Samaya Vinod	"	"
Rohilkhand Akhbár,	"	"
Miratul-i-Hind,	"	"
Almora Akhbár,	"	"
Jalwá-i-Túr,	"	16th
Benares Akhbár,	"	"
Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb,	"	"
Akhbar-i-'Alam,	"	"
Mufid-i-Hind,	"	"
Khair Khwáh-i-Hind,	"	"
Najm-ul-Akhbár,	"	"
Social Science Congress Gazette,	"	17th
Anand Lahari,	"	"
Kayasth Samachár,	"	"
Anjuman-i-Panjáb,	"	"
Khair Khwáh-i-Alam,	"	"
Lauh-i-Mahfúz,	"	"
Aligarh Institute Gazette,	"	"
Meerut Gazette,	"	18th
Tahzib-ul-Ikhlaq,	"	"
Rohilkhand Akhbár,	"	"
Núr-ul-Afáq,	"	"
Tuhfah-i-Kashmír,	"	"
Rahbar-i-Hind,	"	"
Urdu Akhbár,	"	"
Urdú Akhbár (Akola),	"	"
Núr-ul-Anwar,	"	"
Anjuman-i-Hind,	"	"
Panjábi Akhbár,	"	"
Koh-i-Núr,	"	"
Vakil-i-Hindustán,	"	"
Gwalior Gazette,	"	19th
Akmal-ul-Akhbár,	"	"
Oudh Akhbár,	"	"
Sádiq-ul-Akhbár,	"	20th
Kavi Vachan Sudha,	"	"
Kárnamah,	"	"
Adib-i-Alam,	"	"

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

Name.	Date.
	1876.
Agra Akhbár,	November 20th
Rfáz-ul-Akhbár,	"
Anjas-ul-Akhbár,	"
Pésála Akhbár,	"
Dabdabá-i-Sikandarí,	"
Mitfa-i-Núr,	"
Núr-ul-Islám,	"
Lawrence Gazette	"
Ashraf-ul-Akhbár,	"
Mazhar-i-Durakshán,	"
Rahbar-i-Hind,	"
Shéla-i-Túr,	"
Nasír-ul-Akhbár,	"
Oudh Akhbár,	"
Akhbár-i-'Am,	"
Shams-ul-Akhbár,	"
Safír-i-Bodhéná,	"
Munsá-ul-Akhbár,	"
Taj-ul-Akhbár,	"
Núr-i-Afshan,	"
Oudh Akhbár,	"
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